



09/08/99

**WILLIAM LAWRENCE MUCKELROY, P.C.**

**A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**  
 EWING PROFESSIONAL BUILDING, SUITE 3A  
 1901 NORTH OLDEN AVENUE  
 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08618-2101  
 (609) 882-2111  
 FAX. (609) 883-3322  
 E-MAIL: <http://vgsu67a@prodigy.com>

PRACTICE LIMITED TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COMPUTER LAW

WILLIAM L. MUCKELROY, P.C.\*+

GARY N. LIPSON \*■

JAMES E. CARTY III, P.C.\*&gt;

ARTHUR L. LESSLER \*&gt;

OF COUNSEL

\*CERTIFIED PATENT ATTORNEY

■ MEMBER N.J. &amp; PA. BARS

+ MEMBER N.J. &amp; D.C. BARS

&gt; MEMBER N.J. &amp; N.Y. BARS..

**NEW YORK OFFICE**

11 PENN PLAZA  
 FIFTH FLOOR  
 NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001  
 (212) 921-2102

**PLAINFIELD OFFICE**

50 CRAGWOOD RD.  
 THIRD FLOOR  
 SO PLAINFIELD, N.J. 07080  
 (908) 791-1113

REPLY TO TRENTON OFFICE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

September 1, 1999

Re: Patent Application; Improved Six Dice Game; Our File No. 2066/12/98

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed herewith for filing are the following:

1. Patent Application for U.S. Letters Patent and Drawings.
2. Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney in Original Application.
3. Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status.
4. Form 1449.
6. Copies of Prior Art.
7. Filing Fee Check for \$380.00.

09/391445



09/08/99

July 23, 1999

8. Postcard to be returned to us.

Very truly yours,

William Lawrence Muckelroy, Esq.  
Registration No. 26,961

jt

Enclosures: Application and Drawings; Declaration and Power of Attorney; Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status; Form 1449; Copies of Prior Art; Check for \$380.00; Postcard

cc: Rocco Promutico

By certified mail return receipt requested no. Z 284 597 502

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	65.0 ± 1.5
Gender	
Male	50.0
Female	50.0
Education (years)	12.0 ± 1.0
Marital status	
Married	60.0
Single	40.0
Occupation	
Retired	70.0
Unemployed	30.0
Income (USD/month)	1,200.0 ± 200.0
Health status	
Good	60.0
Poor	40.0
Smoking status	
Smoker	30.0
Non-smoker	70.0
Alcohol consumption	
Drinker	20.0
Non-drinker	80.0
Comorbidities	
Hypertension	40.0
Diabetes	30.0
Cholesterol	20.0
Arthritis	10.0
Depression	15.0
Medication use	
Yes	50.0
No	50.0

Applicant or Patentee: Rocco R. Promutico

Serial or Patent No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney's Docket No. 2066/12/98

Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

For: IMPROVED SIX DICE GAME

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS [37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)] - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare, that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of payment reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention above-entitled invention, namely, Improved Six Dice Game described in

( x ) the provisional specification filed herewith  
( ) application serial no. ( ) patent no. , issued

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37b CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37b CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is, upon information and belief, listed as follows:

(x) no such person, concern, or organization  
( ) persons, concerns or organizations listed below.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of any fee due, the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any application based on the accompanying

provisional patent application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Rocco R. Promutico  
NAME OF INVENTOR

Rocco R. Promutico  
Signature of Inventor

Date: 8/22/99

099145-0099  
"544T6E60"

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

**APPLICATION FOR U. S. LETTERS PATENT**

12

**ENTITLED**

13

**IMPROVED SIX DICE GAME**

14

**BY**

15

**ROCCO PROMUTICO**

16

**OF**

17

**NEW JERSEY**

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

**WILLIAM LAWRENCE MUCKELROY P.C.**

29

A Legal Services Professional Corporation

30

Ewing Professional Building, Suite 3A

31

1901 North Olden Avenue

32

Trenton, New Jersey 08618

33

(609) 882-2111

34

Attorneys for Applicant

## **Background**

### **1. Field of the Invention.**

The present invention relates to casino games, and more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a wagering game employing dice in combination with common poker-like winning hands that is intended to be played in gambling casinos, but which game can also be played in non-gambling settings. Even more particularly, the instant invention is intended to give a novel and new look and feel to the currently popular games of craps and poker, yet have simplified rules and procedures designed both to encourage use by novice gamblers and to increase the betting decisions per hour to maximize casino profit.

### **2. Description of the Prior Art**

Games of chance employing dice are as old as the invention of dice themselves. The concept of using dice boxes in which to play dice games is also old. Even so, the prior art discloses many novel dice box apparatuses and many novel dice games to be played in them. Dice games generally employ one or more dice which, when thrown or rolled upon a horizontal surface, determine a score based upon indicia displayed by the upwardly facing sides or faces of the resting dice. Each die is in the form of a six sided cube, and each side commonly has thereon different quantities of spots respectively representing the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. U.S. Pat. No. 2,657,065 is one such game wherein dice are projected at a cylindrical chamber, the score being determined by the score on the dice which hit the chamber. U.S. Pat. No. 4,247,114 discloses a game board with a walled center player area. U.S. Pat. No. 4,648,602 discloses a hexagonal dice box, with a circumferential rim on which score may be kept. Dice thrown into a dice box can occasionally result in a miss, wherein the dice miss the box or fly out of it after being thrown. When this happens, the dice are usually retrieved and thrown again. However, a game such as the present invention which allows the player an opportunity to improve his score when he throws again, combined with a double dice box provides a novel and entertaining way to play dice.

5 U.S. Patent 4,430,780 issued in 1990 to Goodman et al. discloses a method of playing a  
6 dice game wherein a dice box having two play compartments is separated by a common wall,  
7 one compartment of which is used to catch the dice when thrown, the second compartment  
8 acting as a holding area in which dice are placed that have been counted in scoring, taking  
9 them temporarily out of action. The game is played with six dice. Ones, fives and certain  
10 multiple combinations are scored. Players may re-throw any dice which miss the play  
11 compartment, and any score changes being caused by one die hitting another in the play  
12 compartment are counted. A player must voluntarily surrender his turn while still  
13 accumulating score in order for that score to be counted; if he fails to score on any throw of  
14 the dice, any score accumulated during that turn is canceled.

15 U.S. Patent 5,350,175 which issued in 1994 to DiLullo et al. discloses a method of  
16 playing a novel betting game with dice. A playing surface includes numerical zones that  
17 represent the possible outcomes of the sum of either two rolls of a pair of dice or three rolls of  
18 a pair of dice. Certain of these zones are defined as walls, and the other zones are provided  
19 with payout rewards. In play, a number of players place "survival" bets. One player is  
20 selected to begin rolling the pair of dice until either the maximum number of rolls is achieved  
21 without hitting a wall, or the sum of each roll of the dice falls within a wall. If the sum of the  
22 rolls of the dice falls within a wall, the survival bets are collected, the dice are passed to  
23 another player, and the game begins again. Otherwise, the appropriate payout reward is paid to  
24 each player who made a survival bet. Other single-roll side bets may be included for allowing  
25 players to bet upon the chance outcome of high numbers, low numbers, doubled, or a  
26 natural 12.

27 U.S. Patent 5,456,467 which issued in 1995 to Hoover discloses a method of playing a  
28 poker dice game for entertaining players. The inventive game utilizes a plurality of dice and  
29 may include score cards, a rule book, a dice agitator cup, and a storage box. A method of play  
30 of the game includes rolling up to five dice and computing a score in accordance with the  
31 numbers generated. Score is kept for each player with the winner being declared as the player

5 obtaining a score within a predetermined scoring window or spread.

6 United States Patent No. 5,542,642 was issued to Stewart in 1996 and discloses a novel  
7 casino game using three dice, one having the color red and the other two having bodies of  
8 white. The red die is rolled first followed by a roll of the two white dice. A better wins when  
9 the two white dice show a total number larger than the number on the red die and the total  
10 number on the white dice and the number on the red die are both odd or both even. Payoff  
11 ratios can be varied and various side bets, depending upon the outcome of the dice rolls may  
12 be arranged.

13 United States Patent No. 5,620,183 which issued in 1997 to Skratulia discloses and  
14 claims a novel set of dice for producing a range of numerical values as well as a method of using  
15 the novel set of three die for producing a range of numerical values and includes a plurality of  
16 dice each having a representation of a selected number disposed on each of its six sides. In one  
17 embodiment the set of dice includes first die, a second die, and a third die, and the range of  
18 numerical values produced is one through eight. In a second embodiment the set of dice  
19 includes a different first die and a different second die, and the range of numerical values  
20 produced is one through nine.

21 Later in 1997 U.S. Patent No. 5,649,704 was issued to Dobbin for a method of playing a  
22 dice game of the type wherein points are accumulated based upon the scores received for  
23 various combinations of numerical values displayed from a roll or throw of a plurality of dice,  
24 and by increasing a thrown score and deducting from or adding to the accumulated score this  
25 increased score based upon a roll of a die. The dice game comprises the steps of: providing six  
26 playing dice; providing a bonus die having six faces, three faces having "DOUBLE" marked  
27 thereon and three faces having "TRIPLE" marked thereon; establishing an initial order of  
28 play; initiating play by throwing the playing dice for displaying a side of each die, wherein  
29 each player in turn throws the dice in an attempt to achieve a score of 10,000 points to be  
30 declared a winner; wherein upon reaching a score of 650 points a player may choose to "dare,"  
31 whereby, the player throws the bonus die and doubles or triples the thrown score as indicated



5 by the displayed face of the bonus die, and the player throws a playing die, whereupon  
6 throwing a one or a five the player adds the increased thrown score to the accumulated score  
7 and whereupon throwing a two, three, four or six the player deducts the increased thrown  
8 score from the accumulated score.

9 U.S. Patent No. 5,806,847 issued to White et. al of Las Vegas on September 15, 1998 for  
10 a game of chance having a playing surface including a plurality of betting areas. The betting  
11 areas have a plurality of betting squares for wagering upon a selected result produced by a  
12 random result selector such as dice. In one embodiment, the random result selector comprises  
13 plurality of dice having a plurality of faces, each face embossed with either a number or a special  
14 symbol. Each betting square contains result indicators that correspond to a selected one of the  
15 plurality of results. In addition, each betting square contains payoff indicator that indicates the  
16 payoff associated with a winning wager on the selected betting square. A single random result  
17 leads to a final and unequivocal outcome of all bets made on all betting squares. The playing  
18 surface is adapted to be placed over existing casino equipment, or may be used alone.

19 Virtually all casinos, especially those in the gaming capitals of the world, have board  
20 games that are played for gambling purposes. The oldest and most popular board games involve  
21 the use of dice to determine the outcome of wagers. Of these games, the most popular and well  
22 known is the game of craps. Craps has the reputation of being one of the fastest and most  
23 exciting table games offered by casinos. However, the game of craps presents various betting  
24 schemes that appear complicated to the uninitiated and the speed of play intimidates the  
25 beginner. As a result craps has a reputation of being difficult to learn and play. As a result,  
26 although craps is generally perceived to be exciting and attractive, many casino patrons are  
27 intimidated and discouraged from playing. This results in lost business for the casinos, and  
28 less gaming diversity for the gambling public. As an example of the complexity presented by  
29 the prior art gaming table games employing dice, a brief summary of the wagering and playing  
30 rules of craps follows. Craps revolves around the player who handles the dice, referred to as  
31 the "shooter." All players at the table essentially wager either with or against the shooter. That

5 is, every player at the craps table wagers whether the shooter will "make a pass" and win the  
6 game or fail to make a pass and thereby lose control of the dice to the next shooter. The  
7 game of craps is initiated when a new shooter is first given the dice to throw what is referred  
8 to as the "come-out" roll. However, to be eligible to throw the "come-out" roll, the shooter  
9 must wager some money or the equivalent, usually the house minimum wager, on either the  
10 "pass" or "don't pass" field located on the craps table. There are, of course, many other  
11 wagers that are possible in addition to this one, but this initial wager must be made before the  
12 shooter may roll the dice. The other players at the table have unrestricted wagers available to  
13 them. There are many "side" bets that can be placed, each having different odds of success and  
14 rates of return.

15 Disadvantageously, there are no markings on the craps table to indicate either the odds  
16 of success or the return on investment for any particular wager. As a result, only experienced  
17 players comprehend the risks involved in placing these side bets and, consequently, most  
18 casual players do not partake of this form of wagering. The object of craps is for the shooter to  
19 make a pass and continue throwing the dice. There are two identical cubical six-sided die used  
20 in craps. Referred to collectively they are referred to as the dice. Both die have dimples or  
21 dots embossed on their six sides. Each separate side thus represents a number corresponding to  
22 the number of dimples on that side. Each separate side of a single die is dimpled to represent a  
23 unique single number from one to six. Two dice are simultaneously rolled by a shooter  
24 which must come to rest with an upper face corresponding to an integer number from one  
25 through six. Thus the sum of the two upward faces must be an integer number from 2 through  
26 12. The laws of probability dictate the chances of obtaining any one particular sum. The least  
27 likely sums are a 2 or a 12 with the most likely sum being a 7. After placing a wager on either  
28 the "pass line" or the "don't pass line", the shooter rolls the dice onto the craps table. If the  
29 total of the dice rolled is equal to either 7 or 11, the shooter has passed; i.e., the "pass" line  
30 wagers win and the "don't pass" line wagers lose. If the shooter rolls a "craps"--a total of either  
31 2, 3, or 12--the "pass" line wagers lose and the "don't pass" line wagers win. If any other total

5 results from the come-out roll, a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10, the shooter has established what is referred  
6 to as the "point."

7 Once the point is established, the house dealer places a white marker on a space on  
8 the table bearing the number corresponding to the point. If the shooter repeats the point before  
9 rolling a 7, the shooter once again "passes"--the pass line wagers win and the don't pass  
10 wagers lose. However, if the shooter rolls a 7 prior to repeating a roll of the point, the shooter  
11 does not pass, or "sevens-out", and the pass line wagers lose while the don't pass line  
12 wagers win. After a shooter "sevens-out", the dice are transferred to the next player, and the  
13 next player becomes the new shooter. Once a point is established, only a roll totaling that  
14 point, or a roll totaling "seven," will determine whether a pass line bet is won or, in the case  
15 of a "seven" roll, lost. All other numbers thrown in the interim affect only the success or  
16 failure of "side bets." Players may make side bets anytime during the play of the game. There  
17 are several areas on the craps table that are designated for side bets. For example, a side bet  
18 may be placed on either of the numbers 6 or 8 by placing money in the area designated for  
19 that wager. A 6 or 8 place bet is successful if the 6 or 8 is rolled, prior to the rolling of a 7. The  
20 6 or 8 bet loses when a 7 is rolled, except on the come-out roll. The 6 and 8 place bet return a  
21 payoff of 7 to 6. Place bets made on the 5 and 9 return a payoff of 7 to 5, and place bets on the  
22 4 and 10 return a payoff of 9 to 5.

23 The payoffs are apportioned to adequately reward players who have risk a wager on a  
24 given number but yet not quite adequately compensate them in proportion to the risk they have  
25 taken. The difference is the house take. Since there is a house take on every bet made it is  
26 clear that for the house to maximize its profits it should maximize the number of bets decided  
27 per unit time.

28 Disadvantageously, the craps table playing surface does not indicate the availability, the  
29 payoffs, or the duration of the side bets. Different side bets are in effect for different periods of  
30 time. Some are effective for one roll only; others remain in effect until the shooter either  
31 "sevens-out" or makes the point. Nowhere on the craps table is there an indication of the

5 duration of a side bet. Consequently, even experienced craps players often hesitate before  
6 placing such wagers, resulting in lost betting opportunities for them, and lost revenue for the  
7 casino. Novice craps players are even more hesitant to place wagers. Additionally, because  
8 payoffs are not indicated on the table, only experienced craps players are able to appreciate the  
9 risks involved in making these wagers. However, the great number of possible bets causes  
10 even experienced players to occasionally forget the odds and payoffs associated with one or  
11 more particular wagers, which in turn results in slow play and disruption to the flow of the  
12 game. For example, because the odds are not indicated on the craps table, players must often  
13 ask what the payoff is on a particular side bet. This results in less wagering decisions per hour  
14 for the casino, less revenue, and ultimately, diminished enjoyment for the players.

15 Due to the complexity involved in playing the popular wagering games employing  
16 dice, as exemplified by the brief summary of craps given above, there is a need for a simpler  
17 game of chance that will appease all strata of expertise in the art of gambling, yet remain  
18 challenging and enjoyable. Although craps is a popular table game, there are relatively few  
19 wagering options, and even these few options are not intuitively obvious nor readily  
20 apparent to the casual observer. Furthermore, the shooter rolls the dice until he or she "seven's  
21 out," and therefore, the dice are not passed from player to player in rapid succession.  
22 Moreover, the payoffs and odds of success are not generally known to the betting public, not  
23 easily discernable from observing the game, and gambling is thereby discouraged.

24 The pace at which craps is played is intimidating, leaving little opportunity for the  
25 novice player to acquire knowledge of the game. Consequently, the number of players who  
26 play craps has declined over the years, and is likely to so continue. Another extremely popular  
27 game currently found in most casinos is the game of roulette, the rules of which are widely  
28 published. This game provides more betting options than does craps, but the game involves  
29 somewhat complicated hardware. This increases the complexity of the game and associated  
30 operational overhead.

31 The great advantage with roulette, which leads to its popularity, is its simplicity and

5 accessibility to the ever-increasing numbers of novice gamblers. For example, players can  
6 wager on individual numbers, which payoff at very high odds, or on black or red, or even or  
7 odd results. In addition to the easily understood rules and betting options, roulette offers  
8 tremendous betting advantages to the casino, which ultimately results in more casino revenue.  
9 Moreover, the number of wagers decided per hour, or "decisions per hour", is much higher in  
10 roulette than in craps. For example, in craps, because the time to either make a point or seven-  
11 out is indefinite, it may take several minutes to determine the outcome of a particular pass line  
12 wager. In contrast, a wager in roulette is decided on every turn of the roulette wheel.  
13 Consequently, roulette yields more money to the casino over a shorter period of time.

14 Another extremely popular game currently found in most Las Vegas casinos is the game  
15 of poker, the rules of which are widely published and have numerous variations. This game  
16 provides numerous betting options, but the game involves somewhat complicated and  
17 increasing or decreasing odds depending on the number of decks of cards used. Winning hands  
18 may include two pairs, three of a kind, four of a kind, and straights. The novel game is  
19 significantly distinct from poker in that it also includes five of a kind, six of a kind, and six sixes,  
20 as well as elements of roulette. This makes the novel game attractive to those who usually enjoy  
21 roulette, as well as craps, progressive slots, and poker.

22 The complexity of the novel game over the prior art games is substantially diminished  
23 and the novel method enables the game to move quickly thereby decreasing the associated  
24 operational overhead. The great advantage with roulette, which leads to its popularity, is its  
25 simplicity and accessibility to the ever-increasing numbers of novice gamblers.  
26 Disadvantageously, roulette does not allow players to fully participate in the game. In most  
27 casinos, particularly those found in the gaming capitols of the world, the ball and wheel are  
28 handled only by dealers and others who represent the casino. One of the most appealing and  
29 desirable features of any gaming activity is the ability for a member of the betting public to  
30 directly participate in determining the outcome of wagers. Craps, for example, has been noted  
31 as being especially enjoyable because the players are allowed to handle the dice and ultimately

U.S. Design Pat. No. 263,975, issued to John S. Quiroga, et al. on Apr. 20, 1982, discloses an ornamental design for a gaming table. By contrast the instant invention is not directed to any sort of ornamental appearance of a game table although playing considerations dictate certain broad geometric relationships between the various play areas on the table. In addition, the required geometric relationships of the instant invention, a craps-type dice game, are far removed in appearance and function from the black-jack-type table of Ouiroga, et al.

a/Promutico.patent.app.B.wps

5 finally decided after each and every roll of the dice. None of the above prior art games,  
6 inventions and patents, taken singly or in any combination, is seen to describe the instant  
7 invention as claimed.

### 8 **3. Objects of the Invention**

9 For the foregoing reasons, there is a need for a combination of variety and simplicity of  
10 betting wherein a winning bet is easily recognized. In many of the prior art dice games six dice  
11 are thrown and points are scored or accumulated by throwing "triplets." While these games  
12 provide a means for a number of players to compete they do not provide the added  
13 challenge of receiving points for throwing different poker-like combinations of dice. These  
14 prior art games, further, do not provide a means of providing suspense and also allowing a  
15 winning bet at each successive throw. The prior art games are to a great extent based on  
16 accumulated point value of the throw. It would be a benefit, therefore, to have a dice game  
17 allowing players to compete against one another by throwing poker-related face of die  
18 combinations such as two of kind, three of a kind, four of a kind, five of a kind, six of a kind, any  
19 three pair, a straight, and substantially equally difficult- throwing six sixes, based on throwing  
20 these various combinations of dice. It would be a further benefit to have a dice game that has a  
21 second set of die for rolling to either double or triple a thrown score after a number of points  
22 have been accumulated during a first throw.

23 It would be an additional benefit to have a dice game in which a group of three die of  
24 one color or design is thrown to determine the extent to which the score is increased for bets  
25 above a certain numerical value.

26 The gaming method disclosed is designed to quickly build excitement and anticipation  
27 with only two successive rolls of the dice per game, and as such is intended as a quick paced and  
28 an unusually exciting game to play and/or observe.

### 29 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

30 In a first embodiment, the present invention is directed to a novel game and board or  
31 surface in combination with two sets consisting of three dice each, one set being visibly

5 distinguishable from the second set and wherein all bets are placed on the board or surface before  
6 the first set of dice is throw to speed up the method of play and payoffs for each bet are set by the  
7 house. Optionally, the house may set and take additional bets between each pair of throws  
8 comprising a throw of the first set of dice and a throw of the second set of dice. In another  
9 embodiment of the invention, a novel method of play uses the two sets of dice in sequence  
10 wherein winning bets are related to poker hands such as open numbers from 3-35; 3 of a kind; 4  
11 of a kind; 5 of a kind, straight; any 3 pair; 6 of a kind, and six sixes (but specifically excluding  
12 two of a kind to provide decisive winning odds for the house) and where the payoffs for each bet  
13 are 2 for 1, 3 for 1, 4 for 1, 5 for 1, 8 for 1, 8 for 1, 12 for 1, and 20 for 1, respectively, for  
14 example. In yet another embodiment of the invention, odds for all bets are again set by the house  
15 and a defined whole or percentage of the remaining losing bets form a progressive pot for 6 of a  
16 kind and/or six sixes comprises part of the betting.

17 The present invention solves the problems presented in the prior art by providing a  
18 novel method and apparatus for playing a dice game of chance which uniquely combines features  
19 of roulette, poker, craps, and progressive slot machines. The apparatus comprises a  
20 differentiated pair of sets of three standard dice, each set being of a different color, for example;  
21 and a playing surface marked with a plurality of spaces for different bets on selected  
22 combinations of outcomes from throws of the dice.

23 The spaces may also accommodate money, casino chips, or the like, and a marker to  
24 indicate the results of the last roll of the dice and/or the winner of a progressive jackpot. In a  
25 variant of the invention, electronic dice may be used instead of the physical cubes generally  
26 referred to as dice. Electronic dice are understood to be dual random number generators that each  
27 randomly display with equal likelihood one of six possible outcomes. Thus, the dual displays  
28 represent a realistic simulation of actually rolling cubical dice. Throughout the remainder of this  
29 disclosure the term dice shall be taken to mean either physical or electronic dice.

30 The present dice game, while exhibiting many valuable gaming features, as explained  
31 below in more detail, also can be inexpensively manufactured and incurs minimal operational



5 overhead expenses. While the present invention may, in one embodiment, comprise a separate,  
6 approximately five-foot by eight-foot rectangular table, the present playing surface may be  
7 formed as a thin overlay to be placed atop existing casino game table equipment such as craps  
8 tables. In addition, if there are an insufficient number of players to warrant operating a full  
9 table, the table may be split in half, with one half of the table unoccupied, and the other half  
10 utilized for playing the game. Advantageously, the operational expenses associated with the  
11 present game are low. To operate the present game, the casino need only employ one dealer.  
12 Moreover, the game can easily be played with artificial money at home as a family recreation.

13 The game has a minimal number of rules, and the rules are readily apparent to the  
14 novice gambler after very little observation.

15 In the case of electronic dice an actuating button or similar device would be made  
16 accessible to each player on a rotating basis. In one preferred embodiment, if the "rolling  
17 player," or "shooter," wins his or her bet, the shooter continues to roll the dice. Otherwise, the  
18 dice are passed to the next player. In an alternative embodiment, there is a new shooter after  
19 each and every roll of the dice. Therefore, the present game advantageously increases the  
20 number of players directly involved in the ultimate outcome of the game, and thereby increases  
21 player participation and satisfaction.

22 The playing surface is divided into a plurality of discrete areas that are used for different  
23 wagering purposes. In one preferred embodiment, the table layout makes available twenty-five  
24 different wagering spaces or combinations. A player wagers on the outcome of any selected roll  
25 of the dice by placing a wager in a space dedicated for the selected wager. The spaces or  
26 betting areas on the table correspond to all possible results or combinations of the two dice.  
27 The player wins the wager if the combination of the two symbols shown on the dice  
28 corresponds to the combination upon which the player wagered. Additionally, in the preferred  
29 embodiment, the individual combinations may be combined into other wagers, referred to as  
30 "field" or "line" wagers. If the player places a field or line wager, the player wins the wager if  
31 the two symbols shown on the dice after the roll correspond to any of the several dice

5 combinations covered by the field wager. In the preferred embodiment, the playing surface  
6 also indicates the payoffs or returns on investment for each possible roll combination.  
7 Therefore, each time that a player places a wager, the player may easily determine what the  
8 return will be if the wager is successful. No a priori knowledge of the odds or payoffs is  
9 necessary for the player to be able to determine the return on his investment. This provides a  
10 significant advantage over the prior art games of chance employing dice.

11 In the preferred embodiment of the present game of chance, every wager is effective  
12 until each set of three dice is thrown or rolled. A game is over after only two rolls of dice.  
13 Therefore, in contrast to the prior art games, such as craps, the present game produces more  
14 wagering decisions, successes or failures, per hour. This results in more overall revenue for  
15 the casino. Moreover, the present invention yields a higher advantage to the casino than do the  
16 prior art games. Thus the present invention represents a substantial improvement over casino  
17 games of the prior art because it simplifies play and encourages wagering, which in turn leads  
18 to increased entertainment and increased revenue for the casino.

039144-0000

**Brief Description of the Drawings**

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a first preferred embodiment of the playing surface of the invention;

Fig. 2 is perspective view of a set of six dice, three of one design and three of another design, which form part of the invention; and,

Fig. 3 depicts a plan view of a second preferred embodiment of the playing surface of the invention wherein various arrays have informational labels shown nearby.

**Description of the Preferred Embodiment**

The present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings and the rules of the novel game printed herein which illustrate an embodiment of the board and dice sets and the method of the invention.

The method of the invention incorporates the following rules, to wit:

**RULES OF THE NOVEL GAME**

1. The game of six shooters shall be played with a total of 6 dice, 3 of one color and 3 of a different color, thrown on a table or board by the players.

The table or board shall consist of different areas for placing various bets.

These areas shall be: open numbers from 3-35; 3 of a kind; 4 of a kind; 5 of a kind, straight; any 3 pair; and 6 of a kind, and six 6's.

2. To play the game, the first set of three (3) dice shall be thrown on the table or board and shall be used to pay off any bets on the open numbers of 3-35 by adding the 3 dice together for a total number. This total number shall also be used to pay off any bets of 3 of a kind as a higher odds bet.

3. The first set of dice shall remain on the table or board and shall be included in the betting after the second set of dice are thrown.

4. After the second set of 3 dice are thrown on the table or board, the total number shown on the 6 dice shall pay any bets on the open numbers 3-35 on the table, and this total shall also pay any bets placed on 3 of a kind, 4 of a kind, 5 of a kind, straight, any 3 pair, and six of a kind including six 6's as it appears on the table or board.

5. After all 6 dice are thrown, only exact matches shall be paid on bets. Example: 6 of a kind showing on the dice will only pay 6 of a kind bet, not 5 of a kind, 4 of a kind, or 3 of a kind, etc.

6. After each throw, the house shall pay any matching numbers on the open numbers of 3-35.

7. All bets shall be placed on game table or game board prior to any dice being thrown.

8. Customarily, no bets shall be accepted or placed after the first set of three dice are thrown. Optionally, the house may set and take additional bets between a throw of the first set of dice and a throw of the second set of dice.

9. Odds for all bets shall be set by the house.

10. A progressive pot for 6 of a kind and/or six 6's may be included as part of the betting at the option of the house.

The novel method specified by the above rules is best described by referring first to Fig. 1 where there is shown a board 10 with specific preferred layout on the surface 12. In the novel method six playing dice (shown in Fig. 2) are rolled or thrown onto the surface 12 by a player or shooter (not shown).

Shown in Fig. 2 are six playing dice 22, 24, 26, 32, 34, and 36. The dice 22, 24, and 26 make up a first set 30. The dice 32, 34, and 36 make up a second set 40. The novel method of the game is therefore played with a pair of dice sets 30 and 40. Note that the pair shown in Fig. 2 do not match each other.

5 The first set 30 is visibly distinguishable from the second set 40. This is not a matter of  
6 design choice but a necessity of the structure of the operational aspect of the game to decrease  
7 the probability and/or prevent an error or issue in determining a winner in the event one or more  
8 dice from the second set is accidentally dropped or thrown before the second or final throw.  
9 Thus, it is an essential aspect of the novel game that in the event a die from the second set to be  
10 thrown is placed on the surface 12 after the first set is thrown it is easily discernable and can be  
11 removed without placing the particular turn and bets of the game at any turn in jeopardy. The  
12 first set 20 is made up of the three dice 22, 24, and 26 which have a darker color than the second  
13 set 30, for example. The second set 30 is made up of the three dice 32,34, and 36.

14 The novel method is enabled by providing a planar game playing surface, the surface  
15 12 marked as shown in Fig. 1, for example. The surface 12 has at least eight separately  
16 delineated areas adapted for the placement of bets.

17 A first area 40, as shown in Fig. 1, is an array of 33 contiguous polygons with a number  
18 selected from the group consisting of 3 through 31 appearing therein. A second area 42 is shown  
19 with a rectangular array of six contiguous polygons each having a spot or spots (and/or an  
20 equivalent matching numeral) therein selected from the group consisting of 1 through 6 spots.

21 A third area 44 is shown with a pyramidal array of six contiguous polygons each having a  
22 spot or spots (and/or an equivalent matching numeral) therein selected from the group  
23 consisting of 1 through 6 spots. The third area 44 has its polygon 45 containing three spots  
24 shown with a bold outline indicative of three of a kind bets.

25 A fourth area 46, substantially the same as the second area 42 but located above it for  
26 example, is shown with another rectangular array of six contiguous polygons each having a spot  
27 or spots (and/or an equivalent matching numeral) therein selected from the group consisting of  
28 1 through 6 spots. The fourth area 46 has its polygon 47 containing four spots shown with a bold  
29 outline indicative of four of a kind bets. A fifth area 48, substantially the same as the second  
30 area 42 but located elsewhere, for example, is shown with another rectangular array of six  
31 contiguous polygons each having a spot or spots (and/or an equivalent matching numeral)

5 therein selected from the group consisting of 1 through 6 spots. The fifth area 48 has its polygon  
6 49 containing five spots shown with a bold outline indicative of five of a kind bets.

7 A sixth area 50, is shown with two side by side, or adjacent, rectangular arrays of six  
8 contiguous polygons each having a spot or spots (and/or an equivalent matching numeral)  
9 therein selected from the group consisting of 1 through 6 spots. The sixth area 50 has two of its  
10 adjacent polygons 51 and 52 each containing one spot, shown with a bold outline enclosing these  
11 two polygons as indicative of three pairs bets or "any three pairs of two of a kind" bets.

12 A seventh area 54, is shown as a cruciform shape, for example, or an array of five  
13 contiguous polygons each having a spot or spots (and/or an equivalent matching numeral)  
14 therein selected from the group consisting of 1 through 5 spots. The seventh area 54 has all of  
15 its polygons shown with a bold outline 56 enclosing all of these five polygons as indicative of  
16 five of a kind bets exclusive of the bet category consisting of five of six spots.

17 An eighth area 60, is shown as a single polygon, a square, for example, having six spots  
18 (and/or an equivalent matching numeral) therein. The eighth area 60 is shown with a bold  
19 outline 62, enclosing all of the area 60 as indicative of six of a six and progressive bets  
20 exclusive of the bet category consisting of five of six spots previously described.

21 Any odds may be assigned or established by the house for payout of winning bets placed  
22 in any of the aforesaid eight separately delineated areas. Payout ratios may be from 2 to 1 for the  
23 most likely to win bet in integer increments up to 200 to 1 for the least likely to win bet, for  
24 example. The house may establish an initial order of play including which players are  
25 designated as first player, second player, and so on to a last player.

26 The game begins by initiating a round of play by a first player establishing a throw by  
27 throwing said first set 30 of dice onto the surface 12 for displaying a face-up side of each die  
28 within the first set; determining a player's score for the throw by adding the face-up sides of the  
29 three dice together; using the score of the first throw to pay any bets on the numbers 3 through  
30 18; using the faces of the three die in the throw of the first set thrown to pay any bets on "3 of a  
31 kind"; displaying the Arabic numerals 3 through 35 in an array of similar geometric areas within

5 a first arena of the delineated areas; displaying six spots in one geometric area of the delineated  
6 areas and designating the second arena substantially "6 six's; displaying each of the six faces of  
7 a die in an array of similar geometric areas within a third arena of the delineated areas and  
8 designating the third arena substantially as "3 of a kind; displaying each of the six faces of a die  
9 in an array of similar geometric areas within a fourth arena of the delineated areas and  
10 designating the fourth arena substantially as "4 of a kind; displaying each of the six faces of a die  
11 in an array of similar geometric areas within a fifth arena of the delineated areas and designating  
12 the fifth arena substantially as "5 of a kind; displaying each of five faces of a die exclusive of  
13 the face having six spots, in an array of similar geometric areas within a sixth arena of the  
14 delineated areas and designating the sixth arena substantially as "6 of a kind; displaying doubles  
15 of each of six faces of a die, in an array of similar geometric areas within a seventh arena of the  
16 delineated areas and designating the seventh arena substantially as "any 3 pair; displaying each  
17 of the six faces of a die in an array of similar geometric areas within an eighth arena of the  
18 delineated areas and designating the eighth arena substantially as "straight; segregating the first  
19 throw of the first set of die on the board with the faces thrown showing and allowing same to  
20 remain on the playing surface; initiating another round of play by a player establishing a second  
21 throw by throwing said second set of dice onto a surface for displaying a face-up side of each die  
22 within the second set; determining a player's score from the second throw by adding the face-up  
23 sides of the three dice of the first set and of the second set together to obtain a total from the  
24 faces of six dice; including the first set of dice in the betting after the second set of dice is  
25 thrown; using the total to pay bets on the numbers 6 through 35, three of a kind, four of a kind, a  
26 straight, any three pair, six of a kind exclusive of the six dot face of the dice, and six of six; after  
27 the second throw, only paying and determining bets on matches which include all six dice.

28 Shown is Fig. 3 is a portion of a dice game wherein another preferred embodiment is  
29 made of a board 70 shown with specific designations for each of eight arrays shown thereon.  
30 The novel dice game of chance further includes the dice sets 30 and 40 shown in Fig. 2. The  
31 board 70 is a substantially flat surface adapted for the game using six die, three die being of one

5 color or design and three die being of another color or design. The surface 72 further includes the  
6 following arrays:

7 (a) a primary substantially rectangular array 74 having at least thirty-three similarly shaped and  
8 sized contiguous polygonal areas, each area containing a different numeral selected from the  
9 group consisting of 3 to 35;

10 (b) a cruciform shaped array 76 having at least five similarly shaped and sized contiguous  
11 polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots appearing on dice,  
12 each polygonal area of the cruciform shaped array displaying a different set of spots selected  
13 exclusively from group consisting of one, two, three, four, and five spots, the cruciformed  
14 shaped array 76 being located above the primary array and having a printed designation stating  
15 "6 of a kind nearby;

16 (c) a first single column rectangular shaped array 78 having at least six similarly shaped and  
17 sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots  
18 appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the last said array displaying a different set of spots  
19 selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four, five and six spots, the last  
20 said array being located on one of two sides of the primary array; the array 78 having a  
21 designation "straight" nearby;

22 (d) a double column rectangular shaped array 80 having at least twelve similarly shaped and  
23 sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots  
24 appearing on dice, each laterally adjacent polygonal area of the last said array displaying a pair  
25 of a different set of spots selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four,  
26 five and six spots, the last said array being located on the other of the two sides of the primary  
27 array, the array 80 having a designation "any 3 pair" nearby;

28 (e) a shaped array 82 having at least five similarly shaped and sized contiguous polygonal  
29 areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots appearing on a die, each  
30 polygonal area of the shaped array displaying a different set of spots selected exclusively from  
31 a group consisting of one, two, three, four, and five spots, the shaped array being located below



5 the primary array, the array 82 having a designation "3 of a kind" nearby ;  
6 (f) a polygonal shaped area 86 enclosing six spots located above and separate from the  
7 cruciform array, the area 86 having a designation "6 six's" nearby;  
8 (g) a second single column rectangular shaped array 88 having at least six similarly shaped and  
9 sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots  
10 appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the last said array displaying a different set of spots  
11 selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four, five and six spots, the last  
12 said array being located on one of two sides of the cruciform array, the array 88 having a  
13 designation "4 of a kind" nearby; and,  
14 (h) a third single column rectangular shaped array 98 having at least six similarly shaped and  
15 sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots  
16 appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the last said array displaying a different set of spots  
17 selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four, five and six spots, the last  
18 said array being located on one of two sides of the cruciform array, the array 98 having a  
19 designation "5 of a kind" nearby.

20 The set 30 consists of dice which are substantially and discernibly smaller than the dice  
21 making up the set 40.

22 It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments  
23 described herein, but in accordance with the doctrine of equivalents, including equivalents as to  
24 functions as combined with appearance, encompasses any and all embodiments with the scope  
25 of the following claims, to wit:

26

27

5   **What Is Claimed Is:**

6   1.A method of a dice game comprising the steps of:

7   Providing six playing dice comprising a first set of three dice and a second set of three  
8   differentiated dice; providing a planar game playing surface comprising at least eight  
9   separately delineated areas adapted for the placement of bets; establishing odds for payout of  
10   winning bets placed in any of the aforesaid seven separately delineated areas; establishing an  
11   initial order of play where players are designated as first player, second player, and so on to a last  
12   player; initiating a round of play by a first player establishing a throw by throwing said first set  
13   of dice onto a surface for displaying a face-up side of each die within the first set; determining a  
14   player's score for the throw by adding the face-up sides of the three dice together; using the  
15   score of the first throw to pay any bets on the numbers 3 through 18; using the faces of the three  
16   die in the throw of the first set throw to pay any bets on "3 of a kind"; displaying the Arabic  
17   numerals 3 through 35 in an array of similar geometric areas within a first arena of the delineated  
18   areas; displaying six spots in one geometric area of the delineated areas and designating the  
19   second arena substantially "6 six's"; displaying each of the six faces of a die in an array of  
20   similar geometric areas within a third arena of the delineated areas and designating the third  
21   arena substantially as "3 of a kind"; displaying each of the six faces of a die in an array of similar  
22   geometric areas within a fourth arena of the delineated areas and designating the fourth arena  
23   substantially as "4 of a kind; displaying each of the six faces of a die in an array of similar  
24   geometric areas within a fifth arena of the delineated areas and designating the fifth arena  
25   substantially as "5 of a kind"; displaying each of five faces of a die exclusive of the face having  
26   six spots, in an array of similar geometric areas within a sixth arena of the delineated areas and  
27   designating the sixth arena substantially as "6 of a kind"; displaying doubles of each of six faces  
28   of a die, in an array of similar geometric areas within a seventh arena of the delineated areas and  
29   designating the seventh arena substantially as "any 3 pair"; displaying each of the six faces of a  
30   die in an array of similar geometric areas within an eighth arena of the delineated areas and  
31   designating the eighth arena substantially as "straight"; segregating the first of throw of the first

5 set of die on the board with the faces thrown showing and allowing same to remain on the  
6 playing surface; initiating another round of play by a player establishing a second throw by  
7 throwing said second set of dice onto a surface for displaying a face-up side of each die within  
8 the second set; determining a player's score from the second throw by adding the face-up sides  
9 of the three dice of the first set and of the second set together to obtain a total from the faces of  
10 six dice; including the first set of dice in the betting after the second set of dice is thrown; using  
11 the total to pay bets on the numbers 6 through 35, three of a kind, four of a kind, a straight, any  
12 three pair, six of a kind exclusive of the six dot face of the dice, and six of six; after the second  
13 throw, only paying and determining bets on matches which include all six dice.

14 2. A dice game of chance comprising a substantially flat surface adapted for playing a game of  
15 dice using six die, three die being of one color or design and three die being of another color or  
16 design, the surface further comprising: (a) a primary substantially rectangular array having at  
17 least thirty-three similarly shaped and sized contiguous polygonal areas, each area containing a  
18 different numeral selected from the group consisting of 3 to 35; (b) a cruciform shaped array  
19 having at least five similarly shaped and sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each  
20 polygonal area displays spots similar to spots appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the  
21 cruciform shaped array displaying a different set of spots selected exclusively from a group  
22 consisting of one, two, three, four, and five spots, the cruciformed shaped array being located  
23 above the primary array; (c) a first single column rectangular shaped array having at least six  
24 similarly shaped and sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays  
25 spots similar to spots appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the last said array displaying a  
26 different set of spots selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four, five  
27 and six spots, the last said array being located on one of two sides of the primary array; (d) a  
28 double column rectangular shaped array having at least twelve similarly shaped and sized  
29 contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots  
30 appearing on dice, each laterally adjacent polygonal area of the last said array displaying a pair  
31 of a different sets of spots selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four,

- 5 five and six spots, the last said array being located on the other of the two sides of the primary  
6 array; (e) a shaped array having at least five similarly shaped and sized contiguous polygonal  
7 areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots appearing on a die, each  
8 polygonal area of the shaped array displaying a different set of spots selected exclusively from  
9 a group consisting of one, two, three, four, and five spots, the shaped array being located below  
10 the primary array; (f) a polygonal shaped area enclosing six spots located above and separate  
11 from the cruciform array; (g) a second single column rectangular shaped array having at least six  
12 similarly shaped and sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays  
13 spots similar to spots appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the last said array displaying a  
14 different set of spots selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four, five  
15 and six spots, the last said array being located on one of two sides of the cruciform array;  
16 and, (h) a third single column rectangular shaped array having at least six similarly shaped and  
17 sized contiguous polygonal areas wherein each polygonal area displays spots similar to spots  
18 appearing on dice, each polygonal area of the last said array displaying a different set of spots  
19 selected exclusively from a group consisting of one, two, three, four, five and six spots, the last  
20 said array being located on one of two sides of the cruciform array.
- 21 3. The game of chance according to claim 2 further comprising six dice, three dice being of one  
22 color and three dice being of another visibly distinguishable color.
- 23 4. The method of claim 1 wherein three of the dice are of one design and the other three of the  
24 dice are of another design.
- 25 5. The game of chance according to claim 2 further comprising six dice, three dice being of one  
26 design and three dice being of another design.
- 27 6. The game of chance according to claim 2 further comprising six dice, three dice being of one  
28 size and three dice being of another visibly distinguishable, substantially different size.

[illegible][illegible]

1/2

FIG. 1

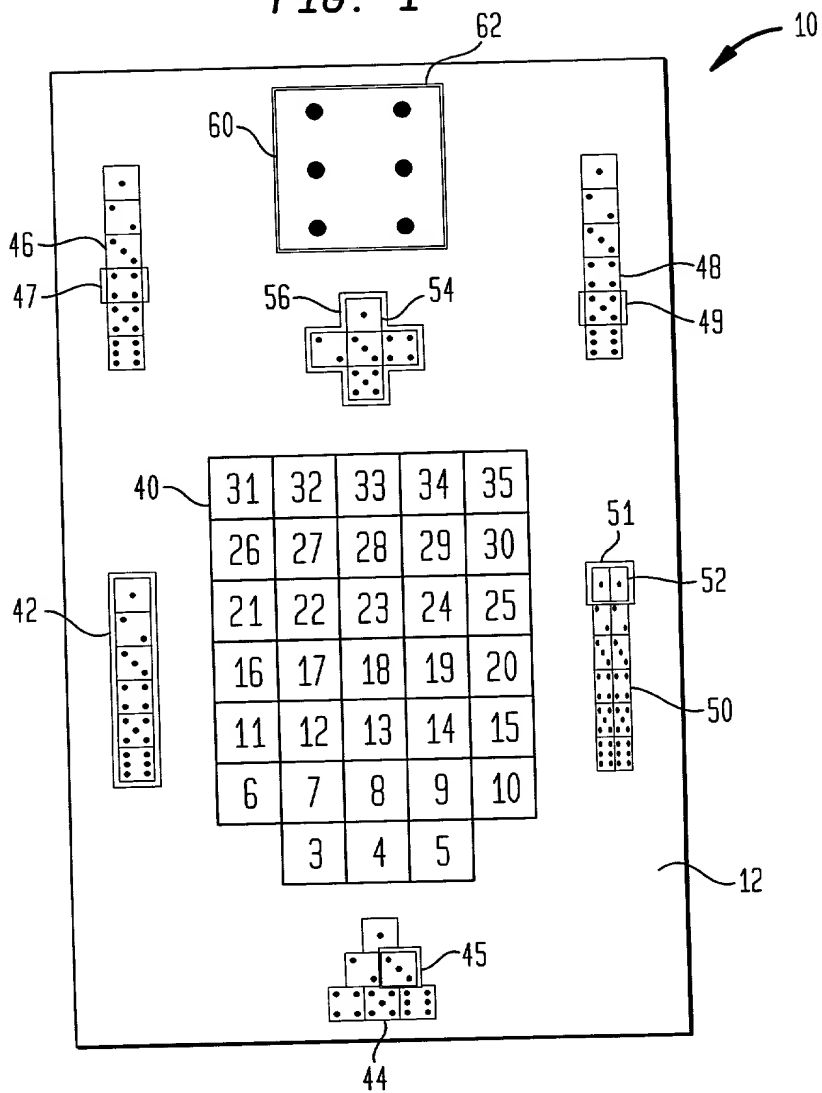


FIG. 2

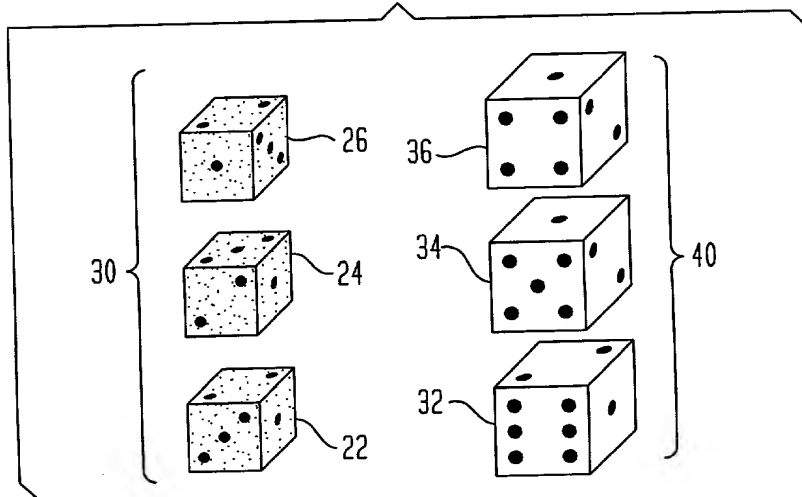
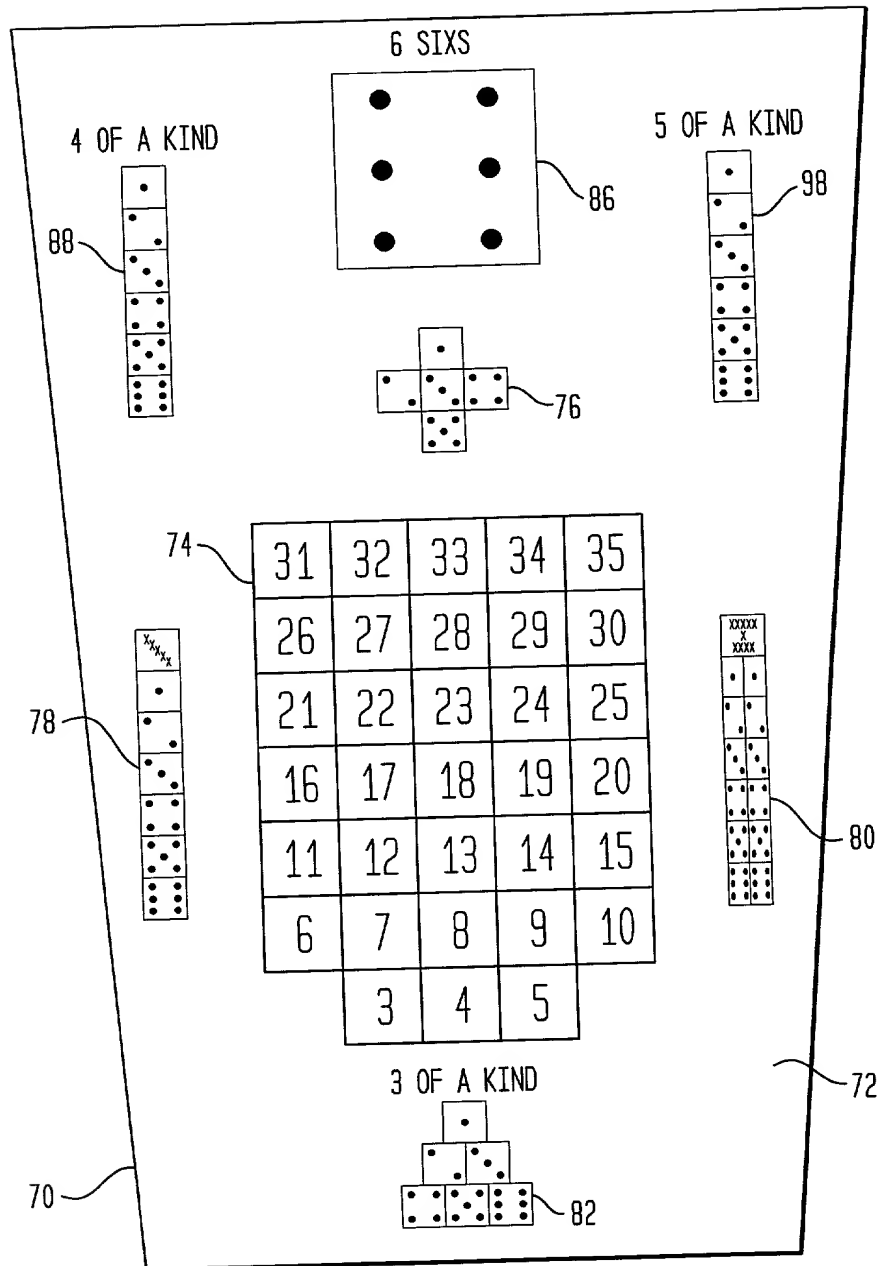


FIG. 3



**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY IN ORIGINAL  
APPLICATION**

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my  
name:  
that

I believe that I am the sole, original and first inventor of the invention entitled:  
IMPROVED SIX DICE GAME described and claimed in the attached application  
including the claims, that I have reviewed, read, and understood the contents of the  
application, drawing, and amendments, that I do not know and do not believe the same  
was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or  
patented or described in any printed publication in this country before my invention  
thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that same was not in public use or  
on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that  
the invention has not been patented or made the subject of any inventor's certificate issued  
before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America  
on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve  
months prior to this application, that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of  
which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance  
with CFR 1.56 (a), and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this  
invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to  
this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns.

I hereby appoint the following to prosecute this application to transact all business  
in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: William L. Muckelroy,  
Registration No. 26,961, and/or Gary N. Lipson, Registration No. 39,279.



Direct all telephone calls to William L. Muckelroy at (609) 882-211220222

Direct all correspondence to:

William L. Muckelroy, Esq., P.C.  
Ewing Professional Building  
1901 N. Olden Avenue, Suite 3A  
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1. FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Rocco R. Promutico  
INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Rocco R. Promutico  
DATE: 8/22/99  
RESIDENCE : 3235 Osborn Terrace, Toms River, NJ 08753